

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph #0005 as follows (added "is" to last sentence):

--A major design goal for SOAP is simplicity and extensibility. This means that there are several features of traditional messaging systems and distributed object systems that are not part of the core SOAP specification. Accordingly, SOAP can be used as a lightweight protocol for exchange of information in a decentralized, distributed environment. As an XML based protocol, SOAP can consist of three parts: an envelope that defines a framework for describing what is in a message and how to process it, a set of encoding rules for expressing instances of application-defined data types, and a convention for representing remote procedure calls (RPC) and responses. The SOAP envelope construct defines an overall framework for expressing what is in a message, who should deal with it, and whether it is optional or mandatory. The SOAP encoding rules define a serialization mechanism that can be used to exchange instances of application-defined data types. The SOAP RPC representation defines a convention that can be used to represent remote procedure calls and responses. SOAP does not itself define any application semantics, such as a programming model or implementation specific semantics. Instead, it defines a simple mechanism for expressing application semantics by providing a modular packaging model and encoding mechanisms for encoding data within modules. This allows SOAP to be used in a large variety of systems. Accordingly, it is highly desirable to provide a communication environment which can use SOAP or similar protocols.--